

# The American Observer

A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe

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CAN HE EXPECT TO maintain peace and order without a gun?

## Shall UN Have an Armed Force?

Grave Problems Before World Organization Raise Question of UN's Ability to Act Effectively Unless Big Powers Can Agree on a "Police" System

THE United Nations faces a supreme test. Can it accomplish the chief purpose for which it was organized? Can it enforce its own decrees? When it undertakes to settle a quarrel among nations, can it stand behind the settlement with enough force to command respect and obedience?

These questions have been asked a good many times. Now we are about to get an answer. The Palestine issue has brought UN powers to the testing point.

The Holy Land controversy came before the UN General Assembly last fall. The Assembly recommended that Palestine should be divided into separate states, one region to be held by the Jews and the other by the Arabs.

This recommendation was supported by both the United States and Russia. These two great powers, which had taken opposite sides on the German settlement, the Greek Civil War, disarmament, the control of atomic energy and other vital issues, stood together on the Palestine problem. Conditions were favorable, therefore, for a peaceful settlement.

But peace did not come to the Holy Land. Instead came war. The Arabs didn't like the idea of division, and opposed the settlement with force. Fighting broke out in the centers of population, and every day since then has brought its story of explosions, armed conflicts, sniping, death and terror.

What should the United Nations do about Arab defiance? The Assembly tossed that question into the lap of the Security Council, and that is where it

lies today. When the subject was brought up for consideration in the Council, Russia argued that the Arabs should be forced to accept the partition, while the United States wanted to start over in search of a solution agreeable to both Arabs and Jews.

Suppose this plan fails. What then? Should the UN send armed forces to hold the Arabs in check? If so, what armed forces? The UN does not have armies, navies or planes at its command. A recognition of this fact brings us to the big, yet unsolved, problem of an international police force controlled and commanded by the United Nations.

When the UN was formed three years ago the general belief was that it would eventually have a large military force for its use. The UN was

thought of as a combination of nations, backed by its own military power, and strong enough to preserve the peace of the world.

The UN Charter provides for a Military Staff Committee, made up of representatives of the five great powers. It is the duty of this Committee to draw up a plan for a UN military force. This plan must then be submitted to the Security Council for approval.

When the Committee got down to the job of deciding exactly how the international army, navy, and air force should be provided and operated, it ran into serious difficulties. An agreement has not been reached, and a UN military machine seems as far away as it did three years ago.

(Concluded on page 6)

## Need for Turkish Aid Is Discussed

Does the Nation, Unscarred by War, Need Any Assistance from United States?

"DURING the last year, the United States has spent 300 million dollars to assist Greece and 100 million to aid Turkey. This money has helped these two nations from falling under Communist and Soviet control.

"It is true that Turkey and Greece are still faced with the Communist menace. Our money has by no means solved all their problems or insured them against Russian domination. But the fact remains that they are free nations today. Would they be if American financial assistance had not been given to them?

"No one can answer this question with certainty, but at the same time no one can deny that both Turkey and Greece might be under Soviet control today if we had not helped them. There is at least a chance that they could not have withstood Communist force and pressure.

"These two Mediterranean lands have now spent all or most of the American money they were given. We should provide them with more funds, not just for their sake, but for our own protection. If they cannot continue to combat Communist force with still greater force, Soviet power will be extended, and the danger to all non-Communist nations, including our own, will be increased."

This sums up the position of President Truman and others who are urging continued financial assistance to Greece and Turkey. Americans who oppose the granting of large additional

(Concluded on page 2)

## Wasting Other People's Time

By Walter E. Myer

MANY people, with the best of intentions, make nuisances of themselves by encroaching on the time of others. One form which the offense takes is staying too long when one has an engagement. When you call at the office of a busy man, do you make your business known clearly and decisively and do you then leave? Or do you settle down and stay until he begins to look worried and to shuffle his papers nervously?

And speaking of making calls at a business office, I hope that you don't go into an office and say, "Are you busy?" You would be surprised to know how many do make that comment on appearing for an interview.

About once a day someone comes into my office with that question, and it always has an irritating effect on me. I don't want to say "Yes," for that would seem to close the door against the visitor. But I don't want to say "No, I am just sitting here twiddling

my thumbs," for probably I am really busy.

What my visitor should ask is, "Do you have time to see me?" or "May I interrupt you for a moment?"

It is important, also, that you should know when to leave when you make a social call, or go out to spend the evening. Make up your mind at about what hour you should leave and then go. Don't keep making promises that you don't fulfill. Don't say, "I really must be going," only to settle down for another hour or so.

That puts your host at a disadvantage. He can't say, "Very well, get out," when you raise the question. He is obliged to urge you to stay, but don't keep stirring up false hopes. When you say you are going, do so. Be decisive. And don't wait too long. You will never lose in popularity by leaving before your friends are ready for you to go. They may be sorry to be deprived of your continued presence,

but they won't think less of you for going. The ability to sense the proper moment to depart from a social gathering, formal or informal, is an important asset.

It is one of the qualifications needed for the attainment of popularity. And don't waste the time of your friends. If a fellow student wants to study and you don't, you should work out a compromise. If he doesn't make you study, you should not make him stop studying. Don't urge him (or her) to go to a movie or a dance or anywhere else if he (or she) prefers to use the time for some other purpose.

Be friendly, of course. Associate naturally with people. Mingle freely with your friends. Visit with them. But do it with moderation and with due regard to the right each one has in deciding how to spend his time.



Walter E. Myer

### NOTICE

In accordance with its usual schedule, THE AMERICAN OBSERVER will omit the issue dated March 29, which coincides with the Easter holidays. The date of the next issue will be April 5.



# Turkish Aid

(Concluded from page 1)

amounts to these two countries argue in this way:

"Our money has been wasted in Greece and Turkey. Neither country is any better off than it was a year ago. Perhaps we should continue to send food and clothing to relieve suffering in Greece, but the Turks did not suffer much from the war, and they do not need assistance of any kind.

"The United States should not send any more weapons or ammunition to either of these countries. By doing so, we merely help the present governments to stay in power, and we are not aiding the general cause of world peace.

"If we feel that Greek and Turkish freedom is worth fighting for and that we shall be endangered if these lands come under Communist domination, then we should warn Russia that we will not tolerate such domination. To back up our warning, we should use the money that we are being asked to send to Turkey and Greece, plus a great deal more, to build up our Air Force and military strength in general.

"A policy of this kind would undoubtedly make a much greater impression on Russia than has our program of providing money to such countries as Greece and Turkey. The Soviet leaders know that, however much money we send to smaller countries, they cannot possibly become powerful enough to combat Russian forces."

## Situations Differ

These are the two points of view as to whether or not we should grant additional assistance to the Greeks and Turks. Some Americans, while feeling that we should go ahead helping Greece, cannot see the reason or necessity for aiding Turkey.

It is a fact that the situations in the two countries are different. Turkey's homes, farms, and factories were not destroyed in World War II. That nation remained neutral until just before the end of the conflict, when she finally broke off relations with Germany. As a result, she did not suffer from invasion and bombing as did most of the nations of Europe.

But Turkey, like Greece, has been threatened by Communist domination since the end of the war. Beginning



TURKEY is still mainly an agricultural land

in 1945, Russia launched a "war of nerves" against Turkey. Soviet newspapers and radio broadcasts demanded that the Turks give up their control over the water passages—Dardanelles and Bosphorus Straits and the Sea of Marmara—that connect the Black Sea with the Mediterranean. Russian leaders also insisted that they had strong historic claims to certain territory in eastern Turkey.

While Russia has temporarily, at least, let up on her territorial demands, she is reported to be trying to bring Turkey into close military cooperation with her. She undoubtedly hopes that such cooperation, if achieved, will enable her to control the Turkish military forces.

In proportion to her size, Turkey maintains one of the largest armies in the world. Her population is less than that of Mexico, but while Mexico supports an army of only 60,000 men, Turkey has been forced to keep over 600,000 men under arms.

The cost of this army is a heavy burden on the Turkish people. Nearly half of all the money collected in taxes by the Turkish government goes for military expenses. In spite of this heavy cost, Turkey's army has not had the best equipment. It has lacked trucks, tanks, and airplanes. Most of its supplies have to be hauled by horses and wagons.

Turkey, therefore, turned to the United States for help last year, and our government granted the request. The American aid was used to lighten the burden of Turkey's military expenses, and to improve the efficiency of her fighting forces. Unlike Greece, Turkey did not use any American funds for relief purposes.

During the past year, Secretary

Marshall reports, this aid to Turkey has strengthened that country's ability to resist the spread of communism. Further help from the United States is needed, according to Marshall, if Turkey is to continue to support such a large military force for her protection in the future.

Although Turkey is not large, she has a strategic location at the crossroads of three continents—Europe, Asia, and Africa. Military experts point out that Turkey stands between Russia and the rich oil resources of the Middle East. She cuts Russia off from direct contact with the Suez Canal and the countries belonging to the Arab League. Most important of all, of course, is the fact that Turkey controls the vitally important waterway leading from the Black Sea to the Mediterranean.

Turkey owns the land on both sides of this waterway. Her most famous city, Istanbul (formerly Constantinople), is located on the European side of the Bosphorus Strait.

Turkey's control of the passages between the Black Sea and the Mediterranean was officially recognized by a treaty, known as the Montreux Convention, signed by several nations in 1936. This treaty stated that the ships of all nations could pass through the straits in time of peace, but that Turkey could build fortifications to protect the waterway and could close it in time of war.

Russia has always wanted to obtain control of this outlet to the Mediterranean, so her ships, in time of war, could not be bottled up in the Black Sea. The Soviet leaders claim that Turkey allowed German ships to pass through the straits into the Black Sea during the war, and thus helped the Germans when they were invading Russia. Turkey, of course, denies this charge.

The leader of the Turkish resistance to these Russian demands is President Ismet Inonu. In addition to his efforts to protect Turkey from Russian attack, Inonu is also trying to make his country a modern nation like the United States, Britain, and France.

Many years ago the Turkish Empire covered a huge expanse of territory which extended into Europe, Africa, and the Middle East. But it gradually lost its strength and was finally defeated, along with Germany, in World War I. At the end of that conflict, Turkey was greatly reduced in size.

Following her defeat, Turkey underwent many changes. A National Assembly, held under the leadership of Kemal Ataturk, overthrew the all-powerful sultan, and declared Turkey to be a democratic republic. A gov-

ernment modeled after those of the United States and Great Britain was set up.

After his election as Turkey's first president, Ataturk launched a vigorous campaign to modernize the country. The capital of the nation was moved from Constantinople on the Bosphorus to Ankara in the center of the nation. All men (and later women) who had reached the age of 22 were permitted to vote. The "abc's" of the Latin alphabet were substituted for the rather difficult Arabic letters formerly used in writing the Turkish language.

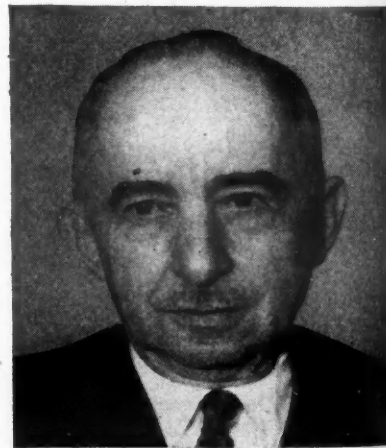
Even in matters of clothing President Ataturk insisted on sharp changes. The wearing of red fezzes and turbans was forbidden. Turkish women were no longer required to wear veils in public. Everyone was expected to dress and act like the citizens of western countries.

In many ways, President Ataturk acted more like a dictator than the president of a democratic nation. He allowed only one party to take part in elections. He frequently upset traditions which had endured for centuries without first getting the consent of the people. At the same time, Ataturk managed to maintain the confidence and support of most of his people. He was idolized by many of his countrymen.

## Little Industry

When the Republic was inaugurated in 1923, Turkey was a land of poor peasant farmers. Her soil was cultivated by ancient methods. There were practically no mines or factories, and very few large cities. Railroads and highways were inadequate.

During the past 25 years the government has done much to change these conditions, but progress has been slow. The government has laid new railroad tracks and repaired other lines



PRESS ASSOCIATION, INC.

ISMET INONU, President of Turkey

which were run down. A large steel plant has been built near the Black Sea coast.

Turkey's farms, however, are still the nation's chief source of income. The farmers produce large enough crops to feed the people of Turkey. In addition, the nation has a surplus of tobacco, olives, and dried fruits for sale abroad. In recent years, the government has set up demonstration farms to show how modern methods can be used, and new crops have been introduced.

These developments in Turkey are being closely watched by the neighboring Arab states. "What Turkey does today," these countries say, "we can do tomorrow." Turkey is thus setting an example of modernization for all the other small nations of the Near East.



TURKISH STUDENTS, many of them under American teachers, are studying subjects from mathematics to cooking, in order to modernize their country





THOROUGH UNDERSTANDING of government is the basis of citizenship

EWING GALLOWAY

# Answers to a Thousand Questions

## Congressman's New Book Gives Many Facts on Government

AS a Representative in Congress for 20 years, Wright Patman of Texas has received a great deal of mail from the voters back home. In this correspondence, he has been asked "tens of thousands" of questions about the government. The more important and interesting of these have been incorporated in a book entitled *Our American Government, The Answers to 1,001 Questions on How It Works*.

There is a wealth of information and interest in this readable volume. A paper-bound edition sells for \$1.50 and one in cloth costs \$2.75. The publisher is the Ziff-Davis Publishing Company, 350 Fifth Avenue, New York 1, New York.

The following questions and answers, selected at random, indicate the variety of facts pertaining to the government which may be found in this book:

*What is "invisible" government?*

Invisible government is boss rule exercised by a person who does not occupy an official position, but is powerful enough to control the administration of public affairs through officeholders whom he places in official positions.

*What connection does the soapbox have with the history of political oratory in America?*

In the early days, it was standard practice for street-corner orators to borrow a soapbox from the nearest grocer as a platform. The "better element" among politicians viewed these open-air speakers as radicals and agitators and called them "soapbox orators."

*What is a "favorite son"?*

A favorite son is a candidate for the presidential nomination who has the support of delegates from his state. Their support is generally expressed on the first ballot, as a token of their esteem for his leadership. The state delegation, after paying its respects to the favorite son usually soon switches to a party candidate who is a serious contender.

*Why were party emblems introduced?*

Party emblems, which appear at the top of a party's column of candidates on the ballot, were originally introduced to aid illiterate voters to identify their candidates' names. Now the emblems are jealously guarded labels of party loyalty.

*How and when were the donkey and*

*elephant adopted as symbols of the Democratic and Republican parties?*

The donkey dates back to a cartoon by Thomas Nast which appeared in *Harpers Magazine* of January 15, 1870.

Thomas Nast also originated the G. O. P. elephant four years after the donkey.

*What is the origin of the anonymous "White House spokesman"?*

There is a rule governing White House press conferences that no newspaperman may quote the President directly without

his special permission. In order to get direct statements into their reports without violating this regulation the newspapermen invented the fictitious "White House spokesman."

*What is the difference between a majority and a plurality?*

A majority in an election is more than half of the total votes cast for all the candidates for that particular office. A plurality is an excess of votes over those of any other candidate for the same office, especially over the number for the next opponent.

*Does the term "senior senator" apply to age or service?*

The word "senior" or "junior" as applied to senators refers to their service, and not to their ages.

*How many senators have become Presidents?*

Thirteen. James Monroe, John Quincy Adams, Martin Van Buren, Andrew Jackson, Andrew Johnson, William Henry Harrison, Benjamin Harrison, John Tyler, Franklin Pierce, James Buchanan, James A. Garfield, Warren G. Harding and Harry S. Truman. Garfield was elected to the Senate but never took his seat.

*Can the President veto a Constitutional amendment?*

No. The President has nothing to do with the adoption of amendments to the Constitution.

*What is the oldest branch of the United States military service?*

The Marine Corps, which goes back to 1775.

*What governmental power is there to overrule a Supreme Court decision?*

Decisions of the Supreme Court cannot be overruled. Decisions can, how-

ever, be set aside, by amendment of the Constitution.

*Has the Supreme Court ever overruled its own decisions?*

On infrequent occasions, the Court has overruled its own earlier decisions.

*Under what circumstances may the Federal Government take over the maintenance of law and order in a state?*

The United States Government guarantees every state against invasion and "domestic violence," but in the latter case, the Government acts only on application of the state legislature. If the state legislature is not in session, the state government can summon Federal aid.

*What is meant by a "pivotal state"?*

A pivotal state is one in which the popular vote is so evenly divided that either party may win the electoral vote and thereby determine the outcome of a presidential election.

Hundreds of other questions and their answers are provided in *Our American Government*. This volume makes interesting reading, and it serves a valuable source of reference material.



Patman

## Readers Say—

As a youthful citizen of Reading, Pennsylvania, I am disappointed that you failed to mention our bicentennial in a discussion of historical celebrations recently. We are especially proud of our anniversary year.

Reading was founded 200 years ago by Thomas and Richard Penn, and the city has grown remarkably since that time. We are the textile capital of the world and the leading pretzel-manufacturing city. In addition we have numerous other industrial plants.

We are grateful for the rich cultural heritage handed down to us by the thrifty Pennsylvania Germans, who settled here in years gone by to find freedom and opportunity.

WILLIAM A. HECK,  
Reading, Pennsylvania.

(Editor's note: We regret omitting Reading's celebration, as well as many other equally interesting anniversaries that are being observed this year. Our limited space prevented us from listing as many commemorations as we would like to have done.)

★ ★ ★

I think schools should be given federal aid because many schools are poorly equipped. The shortage of teachers is due to low wages they are paid. I believe in America that the government and people should do everything possible to help promote better schools. Better education is needed to bring peace and happiness to the nation.

EDWIN H. HOUGHTON,  
Lyndonville, Vermont.

★ ★ ★

The states should go on supporting and directing the schools. It is true that if the federal government were doing the job, the standards of education in some states might be raised. However, I do not think that the states which have paid for their good schools should have to pay for the education of persons in other states.

LYN JOHNSON,  
Weston, Oregon.

★ ★ ★

I think very definitely that the reciprocal trade agreements the U. S. has made with other nations should be continued. By lowering tariffs on products that we import from other nations in return for a lowered tariff on goods other nations import from us, we benefit as does the other country. Trade is increased and prices can be lowered. The agreements serve a valuable purpose in promoting international trade and should be continued.

WARREN ROEPKE,  
Manhattan, Kansas.

## Straight Thinking - - By Clay Coss

Analyze the following argument and see what is wrong with it:

"All dogs have four feet. The animal that just ran by has four feet. Therefore, it is a dog."

The conclusion is, of course, wrong. The first statement (or premise) declares that all dogs have four feet but it does not say that dogs are the *only* four-footed animals. An animal can be like a dog in that it has four feet, but unlike a dog in other respects. All this may sound so simple as to be silly. But suppose we try the same reasoning on another subject of a more serious nature. How about this?

"All Communists favor government ownership or control of housing. Mr. A. advocates that the American government provide financial assistance to states and localities so that they can clear out slums and help to provide low-cost housing for people who cannot afford proper living quarters. Therefore Mr. A. is a Communist."

We are back to the dog argument. Communists believe in the govern-

ment's owning or controlling everything, including housing. In addition, they stand for a lot of other things, among which are the overthrow of non-communist governments by force, if necessary, and the establishment of an undemocratic dictatorship.

A person may be wrong in wanting our government to enter the housing field in any way, but that in itself does not make him a Communist. Not long ago, Senator Robert Taft was called communistic by one of his critics because he supports government financial aid for housing. Whatever one may think of Senator Taft, no reasonable or informed person could accuse him of being communistic.

One can avoid a great deal of foolishness by watching the soundness of his reasoning.



Clay Coss



# The Story of the Week

## The Rich Ruhr

Six nations—England, France, Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg, and the United States—are taking steps toward placing the Ruhr area of Germany under international control. The way is being left open for Russia to join in the project if she so desires.

Upon examining this bit of Germany—smaller in area than Rhode Island—we realize why it was singled out for special control. According to the National Geographic Society, the region in its prime contained "Europe's outstanding concentration of mines, mills, power plants, manufacturing centers, canals, and railways."

"Smoking by day, flaming by night, the Ruhr in action formed an almost continuous chain of blast furnaces, foundries, chemical plants, railway shops, and mining works. Where the Ruhr River meets the Rhine, Duisburg was noted as Europe's leading river port. Its annual prewar tonnage rivaled that of many great seaports."

In the Ruhr area are found rich deposits of coal—three-fourths of Germany's total. Just before the war the tiny region was producing about a fourth as much coal as was the entire United States. Its population, according to the National Geographic Society, was about 5 million. This is more than the number of people who live in Denmark, Finland, or Norway. Fewer than a dozen of our states have this large a population.

The Ruhr district is known not only for its mines, but also for its factories and industries. The region has produced great quantities of chemicals, synthetic oil, and rubber, aviation gasoline, textiles, and steel. Germany used the Ruhr's factories and its concentration of highly skilled workers in building military machines for two great world conflicts.

In wartime the Ruhr was severely pounded by Allied bombers. Since fighting ended, this region has been putting out coal and manufactured items at only a fraction of its normal rate. Many factories that were not destroyed by bombs are idle because they cannot get supplies. Hunger and discouragement among miners, along with other difficulties, are keeping coal production low.

The western nations realize that Europe desperately needs the coal and the machinery which this great



THE WESTERN POWERS are going ahead with plans to place the German Ruhr under permanent international control

industrial center can furnish. Meanwhile, they remember that the Ruhr was used twice for German war preparation, and they want to prevent it from arming Germany, or any nation, for another war.

The problem, therefore, is to put the Ruhr back to work producing peacetime goods, and to prevent it from making armaments for a renewed German attempt to conquer the world. The western powers now agree that international control is best.

The Ruhr is the greatest, but not the only, industrial region of western Germany. The entire valley of the Rhine River is an important manufacturing area.

## MacArthur's Background

General Douglas MacArthur, who recently announced that he would run for the Presidency if nominated, has been associated with the Army in one way or another all his life. Son of a lieutenant general, he was born on an Army post in 1880.

MacArthur went to West Point and was graduated at the top of his class. Then, not many years after the Spanish-American War, he was sent to the Philippines to take part in a conflict against Moro tribesmen. He served with distinction in Europe during the First World War. In 1930 President Hoover appointed him Army Chief of Staff.

World War II made MacArthur a national hero. Since the end of hostilities, he has headed U. S. occupation forces in Japan and has built a reputation for efficient administration.

In addition to having military skills, MacArthur is an eloquent speaker and writer. Many Republicans believe that the colorful background and personality of this military hero would appeal strongly to the American voters. They would like to see him win the GOP nomination.

On the other hand, because MacArthur has been outside the United States for many years, and because his main interests and accomplishments have been in the military field,

other Republicans feel that he would not be sufficiently familiar with national issues.

Although his willingness to run for the Presidency has been announced, his exact position on numerous important questions is unknown. Undoubtedly he will, as election time draws nearer, publicize his views. As the *New York Times* has commented, "A man who is willing to accept the great office of the Presidency must be willing to tell the voters how he would administer it."

## The Condon Case

The House of Representatives Un-American Activities Committee has, by casting suspicion upon the loyalty of Dr. Edward Condon, head of the U. S. Bureau of Standards, stirred up a heated discussion. Scientific research conducted by Condon's agency touches many vital fields, including that of atomic energy.

A sub-committee of the Un-American Activities group recently called Dr. Condon "one of the weakest links in our atomic security." It charged that he has associated with people who are suspected of being disloyal to the United States.

A number of the nation's top-ranking scientists have rallied to Condon's defense. They say that Condon is one of the men who, from the beginning, helped to keep the secret of our government's work on the atomic bomb. The Congressional committee, they claim, has not revealed any real evidence that Condon is disloyal. They point out that the Department of Commerce Loyalty Board has investigated Dr. Condon and given him a clean slate.

Practically everyone agrees that, if the committee feels reasonably certain of its case against Condon, it should insist upon further careful investigation. On the other hand, prominent scientists and others have warned the committee against making, in public, accusations against officials until they have damaging evidence. If such charges are made against loyal

and capable officials, it is argued, competent men will become less willing to keep or accept government jobs.

## Cincinnati and Chicago

A number of schools and communities have been carrying out campaigns to arouse more local interest in international affairs.

In Cincinnati, a six-month program was conducted to arouse interest in the United Nations. Through posters, store displays, radio programs, the use of films and speakers, and special school work, the story of what the UN is trying to do was presented to the residents of the city. The aid of some 2,800 local groups was enlisted. They tried to impress upon each person that he had a large personal stake in the future of UN.

The University of Chicago is bringing to the campus this week delegations from 57 universities and colleges. Each participating group will represent one of the member nations of the UN. The General Assembly and the Security Council will be set up in duplicate. Three of the more important committees will also be established. During the three-day session, students will have a chance to discuss issues now confronting the statesmen of the world.

A number of other projects of this kind are being carried out in various parts of the country.

## New Kind of Movie

Movie actress Madeleine Carroll has set up a company to produce the kind of movies that she calls "feature documentaries." These pictures will present true stories of everyday American life. Miss Carroll says that most motion picture firms are not



MADELEINE CARROLL thinks movies could do much more than they are doing to promote international understanding

doing as much as they could to give people in various parts of the world a good understanding of how others live. She hopes the pictures made by her company will help to show the film industry a way of overcoming this defect.

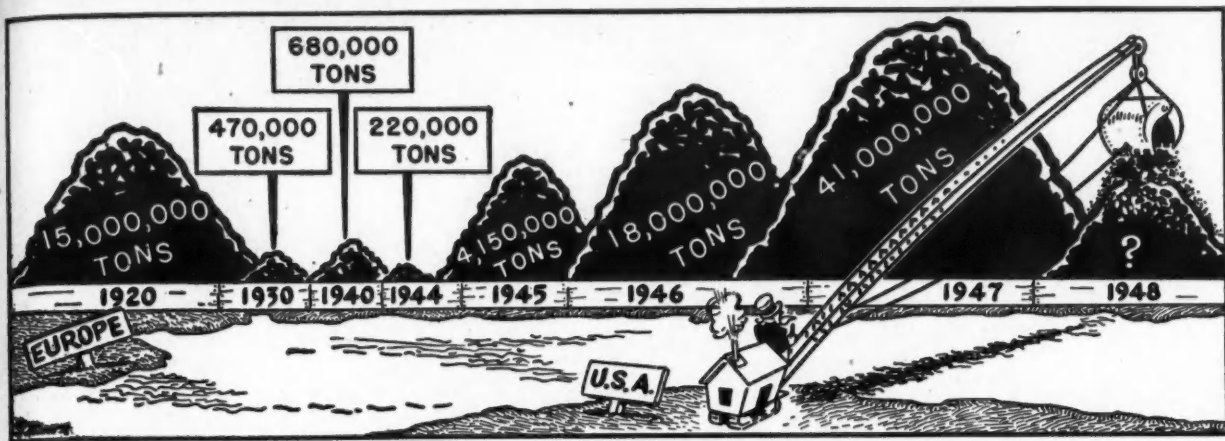
## Threat to Livestock

Livestock raisers in the United States are alarmed by the extent of hoof-and-mouth disease in Mexico. The contagion, which causes cattle to waste away, was discovered south of the border in 1946. Strenuous and costly joint efforts by the United



GENERAL MAC ARTHUR. His supporters are working harder than ever, since he announced that he will run for the Presidency if nominated.





THE AMOUNTS OF COAL the United States has been shipping abroad over a period of years

States government and that of our southern neighbor have failed to stamp it out.

Lately, the disease has been combatted by means of quarantine laws and the use of vaccine. Quarantines are not always obeyed, however, and cattlemen say that vaccination makes animals immune to hoof-and-mouth disease for only a short time. It is now against the law for Mexican cattle to be shipped into the United States, but our nation's livestock men fear that some may be brought in illegally, and that the epidemic will thus be spread to herds north of the Rio Grande.

### UN Crisis

As we go to press, the United Nations is faced with a decision of tremendous importance. Shall the Security Council debate the question of whether Russia helped the Communists in Czechoslovakia to seize control of their government?

Chile, backed by the United States and probably by the majority of other Security Council members, favors such a debate. They feel that the UN should go on record in expressing its disapproval of Russia's part in the overthrow of the Czech government. They think that world opinion should be mobilized against Soviet aggression of the type carried out in Czechoslovakia. Even if UN condemnation should cause Russia to withdraw from that organization, many leaders believe that such action should nevertheless be taken.

Russia and her partners, naturally, are fighting any UN discussion of the Czech government overthrow. The decision on this issue may be known before THE AMERICAN OBSERVER reaches its readers. The outcome will have a vital bearing on the future of the UN.

### Filibuster Threat

A filibuster may be staged in Congress before long. Southern senators have threatened to launch one if there is an attempt by Congress to pass anti-lynching, anti-poll tax, and other such laws.

When a filibuster is conducted to defeat or delay the passage of a bill, various methods are employed. The filibusterers may ask for frequent roll calls. Or they may offer numerous amendments, knowing that these will take up time. The most common way to filibuster, however, is to deliver long speeches.

In a filibuster last year, one senator spoke for 10 hours, but that was

not a record. Forty years ago, the late Senator Robert M. La Follette, Sr., of Wisconsin talked for 18 hours and 23 minutes, although his speech was interrupted by questions. The longest uninterrupted speech on record was delivered by Senator Smoot of Utah, who spoke for 11 hours and 25 minutes. In 1938, Senator Ellender of Louisiana kept the floor for six successive days during which he talked for about 28 hours.

Because it is tiring for one member to talk for a long period, filibusters are more successful when supported by a small group. Then a senator may "yield the floor" to one of his friends while he takes a rest. In this way, several senators may speak in relays and carry on a filibuster for days at a time. They may talk about any subject in which they are interested, and they can even resort to reading long passages.

The Senate practically never uses its "cloture rule." This rule provides that if two-thirds of the senators agree, debate is limited to one hour per speaker. Senators who favor the use of this rule say that it is undemocratic for a small group to be able to keep the entire Senate from voting on a measure.

It is not easy to get two-thirds of the senators to agree that a debate

should be stopped, however. Many senators say that it would be undemocratic to limit debate.

Filibusters, of course, can take place only in the Senate, where there is no limit on debate. With 435 members, the House of Representatives could not get anything done without controlling the length of speeches.

### Drew Pearson Contest

High school students are invited to take part in a contest sponsored by News Commentator Drew Pearson and announced by him last night on his weekly broadcast. All you have to do is to write an original letter of not more than 250 words on "How to Make Democracy Live." Prizes will be based on the ideas expressed. The contest is open to adults, too, but there will be a special \$500 award for the best effort submitted by a high school student. Student entries will also be eligible for the other prizes.

The rules are simple. No entry blanks are required. Each entry must not exceed one page in length and must be legibly written on one side of the paper only. Name, address, and school must be at the top of the sheet. Send all letters to Drew Pearson, Box 1622, Washington, D. C. They must be mailed by April 29, 1948.

## Newsmaker

SENATOR HARRY BYRD of Virginia is one of the leaders of the southern Democrats who are rebelling against President Truman's civil rights program. Asserting that the President's plan to use the power of the federal government to insure the rights of Negroes and other minority groups is "aimed directly at the South," Mr. Byrd says that the southern Congressmen will fight in every way to prevent the passage of such measures.

If southern Democrats should decide to nominate their own candidate for President—as some of them have suggested—it is believed that Senator Byrd might be their choice to oppose President Truman.

Harry Byrd is a member of a distinguished family which settled in Virginia in colonial times. Born in Martinsburg, West Virginia, in 1887, he attended Shenandoah Valley Academy. When the boy was 15, he learned that a newspaper owned by his father was in bad financial condition and asked that it be turned over to him. When the elder Byrd granted his request, the son took over the paper and made a thriving success of it.



Byrd

Branching out in several other fields, Harry Byrd's political career started in 1915 when he became a member of the Virginia State Senate. As a member of that

body for 10 years, he was known as a loyal party man with "conservative" views.

From 1926 to 1930, Mr. Byrd was governor of Virginia. In 1933 he was appointed to the U. S. Senate to fill an unexpired term, and he has represented his state at Washington ever since.

During his years in Congress, Senator Byrd has fought consistently for economy in government. He has advocated a balanced budget and lower taxes and has recommended streamlining many of the federal agencies.

The Virginia senator also believes firmly that the federal government should not take away too much authority from the local and state governments. This conviction underlies his opposition to President Truman's civil rights program. His feeling may be summed up by a remark Senator Byrd made some time ago. "Stop running to Washington," he said, "for the answers to problems that can better be settled at home."

Whether Mr. Byrd would choose—if the opportunity came—to head the ticket for the southern Democrats is not known. However, his name has been suggested for the Presidency in previous years.

The Virginia senator has kept up his newspaper interests and has gone into the apple-growing business on a large scale. He has many fine orchards scattered through the Shenandoah Valley. Senator Byrd has four sons, and his younger brother is the famous polar explorer, Rear Admiral Richard Byrd.

## SMILES

Larry: "Is it bad to have a cat follow you?"  
Bob: "That all depends on whether you're a man or a mouse."

★ ★ ★

Passenger: "Why has the train stopped again?"  
Conductor: "Cow on the track."  
Passenger: "What! Stopped by another cow?"  
Conductor: "No, it's the same one. We've caught up with her again."



"THE LAUGHTER on this program was transcribed"

The last book written by Lawrence of Arabia, entitled "The Mint," is priced at \$500,000 a copy. At that price no title could be more appropriate.

★ ★ ★

A school to teach women to buy clothes has opened in London. A flying course for homing pigeons should shortly be available.

★ ★ ★

We'd all get more mileage in life if we'd never shift our mouths into high gear until our brains are turning over.

★ ★ ★

Teacher, to farm boy in class: "Myron, if you had 20 sheep and one ran away, how many would you have left?"  
Myron: "None."

Teacher: "Wrong. You would have 19 left."  
Myron: "Miss Jones, you know arithmetic, but you don't know sheep."

★ ★ ★

Jake: "What's the great hurry, old man?"  
John: "I'm going to the airport to catch the 4:30 plane."

Jake: "There's no hurry; it's only 3:30 now."  
John: "I know that, but I always have to figure on a few chumps stopping me to ask why I'm hurrying."





SECURITY COUNCIL meeting at Lake Success

## UN Force

(Concluded from page 1)

In the Committee discussions, representatives of the United States, Great Britain, France and China have agreed on most points. On a number of vital issues Russia has opposed the other four. In most of the cases of disagreement Russia has tried to keep the UN force from becoming too strong. She showed herself unwilling to go as far as the other nations believe is desirable in building a really powerful international police force, and for this reason:

If a UN military force is created it will be under the control of the Security Council. Russia thinks that the Security Council is dominated by the United States, Great Britain, France, and other western powers—nations which the Russians regard as their enemies. An international army would, it is argued, be used by, and in the interests of, anti-Russian nations.

With this idea in mind, the Soviet representatives on the Military Staff Committee seek to whittle down all plans for a strong UN fighting force. They do not want the United Nations even to approach the Soviet Union in power. This explains the Russian position on a number of points which are in controversy. Among the issues are these:

1. *How shall the armed forces for the United Nations be obtained?*

All agree that individual nations must be called upon to furnish ground forces, ships, and planes to build up a UN military force, but at that point agreement ends. The United States, Great Britain, France, and China say that the nations should furnish ships, planes, and so forth, in accordance with their strength.

Since, for example, Russia and the United States are better equipped than China, they should furnish more troops, planes, and armaments than China does. Furthermore, if a nation has a great many planes but few ships, it should furnish to the UN a relatively large number of planes but not many ships. A nation with a large navy and a small air force should do the reverse.

Here is the Russian position: The Big Five nations should contribute

equally to build up the UN military force. China's contribution should be exactly that of the United States or Russia. Each nation should give precisely the same number of planes, ships, infantry divisions, and so on.

It is easy to see that the Russian plan would not equip the UN as well as the other plan would. For example, China is not in a position to give much to the UN. If no other great power gives more than China does (and that is the Russian idea) the total contribution to the United Nations will be small and that organization will have a weak military force.

Perhaps the UN might have enough men and equipment to keep order among the small nations, but it certainly would not have enough to do much against a large country. Under such circumstances, the United Nations could not exert much influence toward preserving peace.

2. *Where should the United Nations' ships, planes and other equipment be kept in times of peace when they are not being used by the UN?*

Russia says that they should be sent back home. For example, any ship or plane which Russia had furnished to the UN should go back to Russia when the United Nations was not using it. The other nations say that the UN forces should be kept in different parts of the world so that they could be called on for prompt action if the UN should need them.

3. *What should be the size of United Nations' land, sea and air forces?*

Our present government leaders want the United Nations to be relatively well equipped. They urge that it should be supplied with 1,250 bombers, 2,250 fighters, 3 battleships, 6 aircraft carriers, 15 cruisers, 84 destroyers and 90 submarines.

All the other nations call for a much smaller armament for the UN. The Soviet Union suggests 600 bombers, 300 fighters, 2 battleships, 4 aircraft carriers, 6 cruisers, 24 destroyers, and 12 submarines. The United States calls for 20 divisions of ground forces; the Soviet Union for 12.

The United Nations is tied up in a deadlock, with little hope for an international police force in the near future. Meanwhile, the Palestine crisis will not wait. There is, of course, a way to handle a matter of this kind if the big nations can agree upon a course of action.

The United Nations Charter provides that if a crisis should develop before the establishment of a permanent UN military force, the members of the Big Five should consult with one another about joint military measures for keeping the peace.

That is what is now being done in the Security Council. The Council can legally call upon individual nations to send armed forces to Palestine to uphold UN orders. Thus far, however, there is no agreement in the Council as to action which should be taken. The Palestine issue is a hot potato which no nation wants to touch.

Great Britain has been responsible for keeping order in the Holy Land for many years—since the League of Nations days. The British want nothing so much as to get out completely. They are at present withdrawing their forces and they hope to be out by May 15. The Jews and Arabs will then have to fight it out by themselves, unless, by that time, the UN can get help from some other quarter.

But who will furnish the troops to preserve order in the troubled Holy Land? The Chinese are busy with their civil war, so that they cannot be expected to do anything. France is reluctant to take any action for this reason: Moslems throughout the world sympathize with the Palestine Arabs, and if France sent troops to Palestine, she would risk trouble with her North

African colonies whose people are largely Moslems.

The United States government is in a quandary as to what to do. Many people in this country object to our sending troops to Palestine. Furthermore, if such a policy were adopted, Arab leaders might become so enraged at us that they would cancel oil concessions which American companies now enjoy in their lands. It is not certain that this would happen, but the possibility is hard to ignore.

Whether Russia would want to send troops to Palestine if the other large nations did not do so is unknown, but the United States and the other western powers would not like the idea of Russia's going into the Near East alone, for if she should do that, she might find reason or excuse to establish permanent bases there.

It is possible that some of the small nations might be induced to take over the Palestine settlement, but whether that will be done is extremely uncertain.

Palestine remains, therefore, one of the outstanding danger points in this troubled world. If the United Nations, having decided upon a settlement in that region, proves too weak and too torn by discord to enforce the rules it has made, the prestige and authority of the UN as a peace-preserving agency will be seriously threatened.

## YOUR VOCABULARY

In each of the sentences below match the italicized word with the following word or phrase whose meaning is most nearly the same. Correct answers are to be found on page 8, column 4.

1. They found him to be a *whimsical* (whim'zi-kál) fellow. (a) dignified and aloof (b) fascinating (c) disagreeable (d) erratic and fickle.

2. The aristocratic family survived many *vicissitudes* (vi-sis'i-tűdes). (a) disasters (b) changes of fortune (c) investigations (d) dangers.

3. *Authentic* (aw-thén'tic) information is: (a) interesting and entertaining (b) unreliable and dishonest (c) reliable and trustworthy.

4. A *vociferous* (vō-sif'er-us) crowd

waited outside the building. (a) very large (b) angry (c) brawling and noisy (d) solemn.

5. Everyone respected the professor's *sagacity* (sū-gas'i-ti). (a) keenness of judgment (b) executive ability (c) sincerity of purpose.

6. Did you consider his remarks *apropos* (ap'rō-pō)? (a) deceiving (b) to the point (c) valuable (d) questionable.

7. The author's style was *sententious* (sēn-tēn'shus). (a) flowery (b) unusual (c) compact and concise (d) dull and heavy.

8. We enjoyed her clever *repartee* (rep-are-tē'). (a) brilliant performance (b) witty replies (c) imitations.



# Example of the "Benelux" Nations

*Their Trade Program Sets a Pattern for Europe*

THE "western union" being formed by Britain, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg provides for cooperation along both military and economic lines. In drawing up economic portions of the agreement, representatives of the five nations carefully studied a pattern established several months ago by the three smaller members.

Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg are already operating a customs union. That is, they are gradually tearing down the trade barriers that separate them, and they are acting together in their commercial dealings with countries outside their union.

When speaking of these three lands as a group, people frequently use the title "Benelux," made up of the first few letters from the name of each nation. Nevertheless, the countries are still separate and independent, and they differ from one another in many respects.

Belgium, a little larger in area than Maryland, has almost 8½ million people. While the United States contains about 45 persons per square mile, the Belgian average is 710. Although Belgium is extremely crowded, no other European country that was damaged by the war has made better progress toward recovery.

The Belgians have re-established their democratic government and, under its leadership, have done much toward repairing damaged cities, railroads, and factories. While they still need outside help, they are producing increasing quantities of goods.

Of course, with their small land area, the Belgians cannot raise enough food for themselves. Therefore, over a long period of years, they have built up manufacturing industries so that they can sell factory products abroad in exchange for needed food items.

## Output High

The nation's output has been remarkable. Leading among her heavy industries are coal mines and steel mills, although most of the ore from which the steel is made must be brought from other countries. Additional industries include sugar refineries, textile works, and furniture factories. The Belgians are excellent farmers too. Even though unable to raise enough food to supply all their needs, they make the best possible use of the land that is available.

The nation is divided into two language groups. In the northern section, the people generally speak Flemish—a tongue similar to that of the Netherlands. In southern Belgium the inhabitants speak French. Educational standards in both sections are high.

Belgium's huge African colony, the Congo, has contributed substantially to the nation's welfare. It has a wealth of minerals and tropical products. The Belgians obtain large amounts of palm oil, cotton, coffee, cocoa, rubber, and ivory from this African land.

The Netherlands is about as crowded as Belgium. It is slightly larger both in area and in population. The Dutch, like the Belgians, have made excellent use of their limited amount of fertile soil. As is well known, they have

reclaimed large areas of land formerly under water.

Before the war, the Netherlands raised a large proportion of her own food. While certain farm products had to be shipped to that nation on a fairly large scale, the Dutch, at the same time, sold specialized foods to other countries. They sent considerable quantities of cheese, butter, margarine, and fish to foreign lands.

Tulips have long been an important farm product in the Netherlands. Countries all over the world have obtained tulip bulbs from Holland.

While manufacturing is not quite so extensive in the Netherlands as in Belgium, it is nevertheless highly developed. Dutch radios, cocoa, electric light bulbs, and bricks were sold all over Europe before the war. The people of Holland also sold diamonds, fine pottery, and other products to foreigners.

The Dutch, like the Belgians, are highly educated and intelligent. They have not, however, made such rapid progress toward recovery from the war as have their southern neighbors. One reason for Belgium's more rapid revival is that she was liberated from the Nazis earlier than Holland.

Before the war the Netherlands profited greatly from her colonial holdings in the East Indies. Today, however, she is having to give up most of her political control over this region, but Dutch business interests are expected to continue to operate on an extensive scale in islands of the East Indies.

Luxembourg is one of Europe's miniature nations. In area it is a little smaller than Rhode Island, and it contains about 300,000 people. The tiny country has rich deposits of iron ore and a fertile soil for farming. The capital city, also called Luxembourg, is an important cultural center.

The outstanding characteristics which these three countries have in common are the following: Their land area is limited, and they are crowded. The people are well educated and progressive. Each of the nations must depend heavily upon foreign trade. They should benefit through their plan to buy and sell more freely among themselves, and they will prosper still more by the union which they are now entering into with Britain and France. Other European nations may also be brought into the arrangement.

—By THOMAS K. MYER.



THESE COUNTRIES are not separated by bodies of water as the map indicates, but they, like other nations, have been kept apart in fact by trade barriers.



BETTY ARLINE LE BUSE of Milwaukee compares one of the world's smallest gasoline engines with a match at a Chicago Hobby Show. Both are shown under a magnifying glass. The engine is 13/16 inch long, weighs 26 grains, and turns a 2-inch propeller for a minute and a half on one drop of fuel. It was built by Ray Arden of Danbury, Connecticut.

## Science News

THE Civil Aeronautics Board has announced that, by May 15 of this year, all regular airliners must be equipped with radar devices.

These instruments flash a light or sound a horn when the plane is within 1,000 feet of an obstacle, either below or ahead of the aircraft.

An electric motor so small that five of them would fit in a thimble was demonstrated recently. Whether or not this tiny machine, or the small gas-driven motor shown in the picture above, prove to have great practical value, they do provide further evidence of the ingenuity and precision skill of American scientists and engineers.

The Navy's newest rocket, the "Aerobee," which recently set a record for American-made rocket missiles far surpassed previous rocket performances. Traveling at a speed of 3,000 miles an hour, the Aerobee reached a height of 78 miles when tested. The only American rocket tested previously reached a height of 34 miles, and a speed of 2,100 miles an hour.

No details of the new rocket's design, or the type of fuel used, have been released. Navy officials do say, however, that the rocket carried 150 pounds of instruments designed to study cosmic rays.

A chemical solution, soon to be sold commercially, preserves the freshness of cut flowers. The solution was first developed in an attempt to keep paper from aging. It was not successful for this purpose, but its inventors found that a rose, dropped into the solution by accident, remained fresh. The secret material, though, does not preserve the fragrance of a flower.

Milton Reynolds, wealthy U. S. businessman and sponsor of recent record-breaking round-the-world flights, has taken a scientific expedition to central China. The Reynolds explorers are measuring the height of mountains in the mysterious Amne Machin range.

There are rumors that at least one peak in this group is taller than Everest, the world's loftiest known mountain. The summit of Everest, in the Himalayas, is about 5½ miles above sea level. Most geographers doubt that a higher peak exists.



# Careers for Tomorrow - - The Florist

THE florist business offers career opportunities to young men and women who like to work with flowers and plants. In its broadest sense, this industry, as it might be called, includes the growing of flowers and the process of preparing and selling them to the public.

Because of this wide span of activities, the field provides vocational openings for persons with many different talents and abilities in addition to their liking for flowers. One who works chiefly in a greenhouse, for instance, must know about soils and temperatures, about the cultivation of plants, and about controlling insects and plant diseases. This part of the work requires scientific ability and training.

The person who works in the retail side of the florist business, on the other hand, must have sales ability and artistic talent. In addition, if a florist looks forward to having his own shop, he must have a certain amount of executive ability.

Whichever phase of the work he takes up, the florist must have a sense of timing. Flowers are, of course, very perishable, and the demand for them varies a great deal throughout the year. One who grows the plants must see that they are in bloom at the right time. One who orders them for a retail shop must see that he has enough flowers on hand to meet his needs, and yet he must not be "overstocked."

A long formal education is not necessary for persons considering this field. If one is able to go to college, courses in botany, soil chemistry, art,

design, merchandising, and store management will be helpful.

The florist business is most often learned, though, through an informal apprenticeship. Most persons now in the field have begun in one of the lower jobs and worked their way in to positions requiring greater skill and experience.

Students who think they might like to be florists can find excellent op-



SPECIAL OCCASIONS, such as Mother's Day, increase the sale of flowers

portunities to test their liking for the work and to begin acquiring practical experience through part-time jobs. At certain times of the year—at Christmas and Easter, for instance, florists usually have temporary openings that young people can fill. Summer opportunities may also be available.

There are several advantages in a career in this field, in addition to the satisfaction one may derive from dealing with flowers. No job in a florist shop is monotonous. In the smaller

stores, one person may be called upon to sell, to plan displays, and to make corsages and arrange bouquets. While this work may be more or less departmentalized in larger shops, the individual jobs offer a great deal of variety. Furthermore, the work is clean and healthful, and usually it offers a good balance between mental and manual labor.

Perhaps the major drawback is that unless one plans eventually to have his own shop he cannot look forward to earning a high salary. Recent estimates show that beginners in the field make from \$20 to \$25 a week, while the top positions pay from \$75 to \$100. The average worker may earn only about \$40 a week. Incomes for persons who own their shops vary greatly, depending on the size of the enterprise and its location.

Additional information about this field can be secured from the Society of American Florists, 600 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

—By CARRINGTON SHIELDS.

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## Study Guide

### United Nations

1. How has the issue in Palestine focused attention on the deadlock over a UN military force?
2. What provision did the world organization's Charter make for such a force?
3. What reasons are given for Russia's opposition to the UN's having a strong armed force?
4. Briefly discuss the position taken by the United States, Great Britain, China, and France concerning the number of troops, planes, and ships each UN member should furnish.
5. What is the Russian position on this point?
6. Explain why most of the major powers hesitate to send some of their troops to Palestine?

### Discussion

1. Do you or do you not think that the United Nations should have a powerful military force? Give your reasons.
2. What plan do you think should be followed in deciding how much each nation is to contribute to such a force, if it is established? Explain your ideas.
3. What do you think should be done by the United Nations with respect to the trouble in Palestine? Explain.

### Turkish Aid

1. Why does President Truman think it is necessary for the United States to give assistance to Turkey at this time?
2. What arguments are made against the President's position?
3. What was Turkey's position during World War II?
4. Describe the "war of nerves" that the Russians launched against the Turks in 1945.
5. Why is Turkey's location of importance?
6. How are the water passages between the Black and Mediterranean Seas controlled?
7. List several ways in which Turkey has shown marked advancement during the past 25 years.
8. Is Turkey chiefly an industrial or an agricultural nation?

### Discussion

1. What do you think might be the possible results if the United States cuts off its aid to Turkey?
2. What, in your opinion, might be the results of our continuing to assist the Turks?
3. Do you or do you not think that we should continue to help the nation? Give reasons for your position.

### Miscellaneous

1. What characteristics do the "Bene-lux" nations have in common?
2. Name a Senator who has been suggested as a possible presidential choice of southern Democrats.
3. Explain the importance to Europe of Germany's Ruhr district.
4. What important military man recently announced his willingness to run for President?
5. Describe a "filibuster."
6. What decision caused Franklin Pierce to lose popular support for a second term as President?
7. What charge has been made against Dr. Edward Condon, and how has it been answered?

### Pronunciations

Ankara—ahn'kah-rah  
Bosporus—bōs'pō-rūs  
Ismet Inonu—īs-mēt'ē-nuh-nōō  
Istanbul—ē'stahn-bōōl'  
Kemal Ataturk—kē-mahl' ah'tah-tōōrk'  
Marmara—mahr'mah-rah

### Answers to Vocabulary Test

1. (d) erratic and fickle; 2. (b) changes of fortune; 3. (c) reliable and trustworthy; 4. (c) brawling and noisy; 5. (a) keenness of judgment; 6. (b) to the point; 7. (c) compact and concise; 8. (b) witty replies.

# American Presidents - - Franklin Pierce

FRANKLIN PIERCE became President of the United States in March 1853. Had it fallen to his lot to serve as Chief Executive in calmer times, he might have made a better mark, for historians agree that he had an attractive personality, good intentions, and the ability to perform the ordinary duties of his high office.

The nation, however, was in the midst of a crisis, and needed a President with far greater talents of leadership than Pierce possessed. With the states divided over the burning issue of slavery, he did not know how to respond with healing compromises.

At the time of his inauguration, he was 49 years old. A native of New Hampshire, he was the son of a Revolutionary War general. After going through grammar and secondary schools, he was graduated from Bowdoin College in Maine. To complete his education, he studied law, and then set up his practice in his home town of Hillsborough, New Hampshire.

Like many young lawyers, Pierce turned quite early to politics. He quickly made a success of it, for he was a handsome fellow, pleasing in personality, friendly, and a good speaker—in short, just the kind of man one would expect to see advancing in politics.

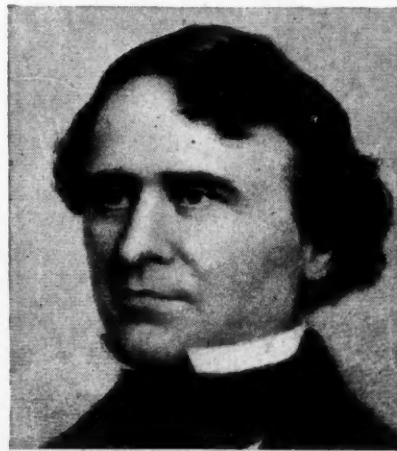
Making the most of his talents, he climbed steadily up the ladder of offices. He went first to the state legislature and later to the United

States House of Representatives, advancing finally to the Senate.

In the Senate, Pierce was simply an average member, and there was nothing about his record to call national attention to him. As the presidential campaign of 1852 approached, he did not loom as a contender in the race.

Nevertheless, the Democratic Party nominated him simply because it failed to agree upon anyone else. The Democrats felt that as a New Englander he would be acceptable to the North. At the same time, he was a pro-slavery man—favorable to the extension of slavery—and that would make him attractive to the South.

During the campaign, of course, attention was called to Pierce's serv-



FRANKLIN PIERCE, fourteenth President

ice in the Mexican War, which saw him rise from private to brigadier general. This gave him a military record to offset that of his opponent, General Winfield Scott. And as an experienced campaigner, Pierce easily outdistanced Scott, who was an amateur at politics.

Shortly after Pierce became President, a dispute broke out over Kansas and Nebraska, which were asking for statehood. Most northern leaders said they should come in without slavery, since they were north of the line which had divided slavery and anti-slavery territory. The South wanted one or both of the new states to have slaves, thus keeping the balance between slave and free states.

Stephen A. Douglas said each territory should decide for itself whether it should be free or slave. President Pierce supported this view, and thereby lost popularity in the North, which strongly opposed the Douglas Plan. Hence he failed to secure the Democratic nomination for a second term. Instead the Democrats turned to James Buchanan.

Pierce did nothing to ward off the approaching war, but perhaps no one could at that time have averted it.

Five rockets, each carrying 300 letters, will be launched in southern California late this week. Sending mail a short distance by rocket is just a stunt, but perhaps the fast mail of the future will travel this way.